

Weekend Weather

Today: Rain – high 75, low 72
Saturday: Rain – high 77, low 68
Sunday: Partly cloudy – high 81, low 68



Sorties

Squadron	Month	Year
8th FW	-153	-57
35th FS	-58	-17
80th FS	-95	-40



Common Courtesies



In Korea, it is considered rude to beckon a person with your index finger. This is how Koreans beckon animals, not people.



WOLF PACK WARRIOR

Vol. 16, No. 22

Serving the members of the 8th Fighter Wing, Kunsan Air Base, Republic of Korea

June 29, 2001

Ceremony honors local residents

By 1st Lt. Miki Krejcarek
8th Fighter Wing Public Affairs

Seven residents from the town of Cho'ong Woong Myon gathered at the Korean National Police Station in Cho'ong Woong Myon June 20 to be recognized by the on-scene commander for their initial response efforts at the fatal F-16 accident site.

Col. Michael Gardiner, 8th Support Group commander, presented the honors and provided appreciation mementos to the seven residents before a crowd of nearly 30 local community members.

Honored were: Yim, Mun Sun, civilian; Maj. Kim, Chae Kyu and Corporal Yim, Dae Chong, Republic of Korea army 2nd Born 103rd Regiment; Pa, Young Min, Imsil Police Department Chongung Korean Police chief; Kang, Min Young, Yimshil Fire Department; Cho, In Suk, Yimshil Fire Department; and Hong, Soon Ha, Yimshil High School student.

"Each of you is a hero," Gardiner said. "Not only to me, but to all of the people I am here to represent - the men and women of Kunsan Air Base, the U.S. Air Force and the family and friends of 1st Lt. Randy Murff."

Murff was killed June 12 when his F-16 crashed in a rice paddy in the town of Cho'ong Woong Myon, which is located about 40 miles southeast of Kunsan. The seven residents selflessly placed themselves in harm's way in a search and rescue attempt to locate the pilot, Gardiner said.

Earlier in the day, community members held a makeshift memorial for Murff, bringing baskets of fruits and rice cake to pay their respects to the downed pilot.

"The determination and dedication of the individuals deserve the utmost of our praise," said Col. Burt Field, 8th Fighter Wing commander. "The community came together as a family to support the Wolf Pack, and it is greatly appreciated."

Friendship society recognizes airman's volunteerism

By Master Sgt. Will Ackerman
8th Fighter Wing Public Affairs

The Korea America Friendship Society presented a Kunsan airman and three other U.S. Forces Korea service-members its annual "Friendship Award" at a dinner ceremony at the Seoul Hilton Hotel June 22. The ceremony also celebrated the society's 10th anniversary.

The society honored Senior Airman Lanie McNeal, 8th Communications Squadron still photographer, for her volunteer efforts in promoting good will and understanding among Koreans and Americans.

Other recipients included Army Capt. Kurt Connell, Headquarters Eighth U.S. Army; Capt. Brad Endres, 2nd Infantry Division; and Navy Petty Officer 2nd Class James Glerup, U.S. Naval Forces Korea.

In congratulatory remarks at the dinner, KAFS president Park, Keun said, "It is my conviction that the bonds of Korea-America friendship and alliance are stronger than ever, for we are bound together by our shared love of freedom. It is in this spirit that we award ... this evening the Korea America Friendship Awards to four heroes of freedom and friendship in Korea."

McNeal's recognition stems from her tireless efforts to bring cheer to 39 children at the Kae Chong orphanage in Kunsan City. Since arriving at Kunsan Air Base in June 2000, she's volunteered more than 160 hours of off-duty time arranging weekly visits and special events for the orphanage's children.

McNeal and about 20 other Kunsan volunteers visit the children, whose ages range from 4 to 28, every Thursday to play games, teach the older children English, roughhouse or simply to be a friend for a few hours.

"It's no doubt what the children get from our visits, they get attention," McNeal said. "They get to let it out and

just be kids."

In addition to the weekly visits, McNeal spearheaded events including a Christmas party and a recent field trip with the children to Everland Amusement Park near Seoul. For the Everland trip, McNeal secured funds from the base chapel and private base organizations to offset the children's ticket costs as well as negotiated discounts from park officials. Additionally, McNeal recruited 45 Kunsan members as the children's chaperones, including volunteer medical personnel for possible emergencies, and created Korean-English language translation cards to help volunteers speak with the orphans.

Although the Friendship Award honored McNeal's efforts, she couldn't make the orphanage visits a success without other Wolf Pack volunteers.

"There are lots of people who help out probably as much as I do. In fact, there are many of the same volunteers who go to the orphanage every Thursday," she said. "Every volunteer, whether they come for one time or every time, are what makes the orphanage visits work. It's the trips, the friendships, the children's time - that's what makes this work."

McNeal said her desire to bring companionship to the children stems from her own adoption at age 18.

"Without my adopted family's love, I wouldn't be in the Air Force," she said. "My father's a big part of what makes me go right now. He's got a great heart. I



Photo by Master Sgt. Will Ackerman, 8th FW/PA

Lt. Gen. Daniel Zanini, 8th U.S. Army commanding general, presents the Korea America Friendship Society's "Friendship Award" to Senior Airman Lanie McNeal, 8th Communications Squadron still photographer, Kunsan Air Base, Republic of Korea, at an awards dinner ceremony at the Seoul Hilton Convention Center June 22. The society presents the award annually to United States Forces Korea personnel whose efforts promote good will and understanding among Koreans and Americans.

think he instilled that in me."

The orphanage visit program has been ongoing for about six years. McNeal assumed the program from Staff Sgt. Jung Murphy who left Kunsan in April. McNeal said she's trying to extend at Kunsan for one more year to continue her orphanage visits.

Although the bulk of McNeal's volunteer effort is to the orphanage, she also promotes Korean-American good will by assisting other Kunsan volunteers clean up Eun Pa Lake, located about 10 miles from Kunsan, and plans to help in a Habitat for Humanity house-building project that kicked off Monday.

McNeal said it's important for U.S. servicemembers to be good neighbors while stationed here.

"Why not leave something good here from your tour," McNeal said. "By volunteering, it tells the Koreans, 'We actually care about your country as well.'"